

What is Claimed is:

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1. A computer program method for driving a computer processor for use with a graphics display device and for graphically representing, and facilitating a user in configuring, automation equipment, the automation equipment including a support having a plurality of receiving locations as well as a plurality of modules each capable of being coupled to the support in at least one of the receiving locations, the modules comprising the steps of:

10 displaying on the display device images representative of the modules and permitting selection of displayed module images;

15 automatically indicating, upon selection of the module, a receiving location with which a module is capable of being associated;

20 wherein, the selection of a module triggers the indication of the receiving location to facilitate the user's relation of the selected module with an associated location.

25 2. The computer program method of claim 1, wherein the automation equipment includes a rack having a plurality of slots and a plurality of modules capable of being plugged into slots of the rack, the modules comprising electronic components, further comprising the step of associating each of the modules with at least one respective slot.

3. The computer program method of claim 2, wherein the step of associating associates the modules with respective slots based on respective characteristics of the modules.

30 4. The computer program method of claim 2, wherein the step of associating associates the modules with respective slots based on an architecture of the modules.

35 5. The computer program method of claim 2, wherein the indication that the slot is associated with a module is effected by modifying the graphical representation of the slot.

6. The computer program method of claim 1, wherein the relation of a selected module with an indicated slot is effected by relocating the representation of the selected model by means of a drag and drop procedure.

5 7. The computer program method of claim 1, further comprising the step of depicting the respective spatial appearances of the rack and of the module as relocated in the rack.

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10 8. A computer program apparatus for use with a graphics display device and for graphically representing, and facilitating a user in configuring, automation equipment, the automation equipment including a support having a plurality of receiving locations as well as a plurality of modules each capable of being coupled to the support in at least one of the receiving locations, the modules comprising:

15 displaying on the display device images representative of the modules and permitting selection of displayed module images;

20 automatically indicating, upon selection of the module, a receiving location with which a module is capable of being associated;

25 wherein, the selection of a module triggers the indication of the receiving location to facilitate the user's relation of the selected module with an associated location.

30 9. The computer program apparatus of claim 8, wherein the automation equipment includes a rack having a plurality of slots and a plurality of modules capable of being plugged into slots of the rack, the modules comprising electronic components, each of the modules with at least one respective slot.

10. The computer program apparatus of claim 9, wherein the modules are associated with respective slots based on respective characteristics of the modules.

35 11. The computer program apparatus of claim 9, wherein the modules are associated with respective slots based on an architecture of the modules.

12. The computer program apparatus of claim 9, wherein the indication that the slot is associated with a module is effected by modifying the graphical representation of the slot.

a⁵ 13. The computer program apparatus of claim 8, wherein the relation of a selected module with an indicated slot is effected by relocating the representation of the selected model by means of a drag and drop procedure.

10 14. The computer program apparatus of claim 8, wherein the respective spatial appearances of the rack and of the module as relocated in the rack are displayed by the display device.

15 15. The computer program apparatus of claim 8, wherein said display comprises a web-browser that displays the modules from information downloaded through the internet.

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